

My abiding concern is the with the condition of US broadcast media, particularly major network television news. An informed populace is essential to a functioning democracy, and the broadcast networks are the primary source of information for a majority of americans. They frame the debate on nearly every issue. I believe it is important to have as many independent opinions and information sources as possible, in order to revive informed civic involvement in the process of self-government.

To this end, I encourage you to support the current FCC regulations limiting ownership of media outlets, or, if anything, to support further limitations, mandating divestiture of media resources from corporate giants. Corporate owners of broadcast networks are interested, naturally, in their own ultimate bottom line, and not in providing the people of this great country with a variety of information sources, opinions, and analyses upon which to reflect. Knowledge is power, and the ability to select both the topics and the information that becomes "news" is perhaps the greatest power. And perhaps also the greatest current threat to the great experiment that is our American democracy.

In addition to limiting media ownership, I would also encourage you to support the reinstatement of the FCC's Fairness Doctrine. Furthermore, our democracy would be strengthened if the FCC would again require real public service from broadcasters (for their frequency licenses) in the form of more investigative news and vigorous political debate. We can and should require this of broadcasters.

This issue of an informed public is a lynch pin, a cornerstone. Americans today have access to more information than ever before, but we must recognize the overwhelming importance of broadcast television and radio in this context and not allow further concentration of power in this critical arena.

Sincerely,

Bryan Smith